

CAMBORNE-REDRUTH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

*G. W. Knight, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.*

---

TOGETHER WITH THE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR,

*C. F. Baxter, M.S.I.A.*

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**1949**

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REDRUTH  
EARLE & CO., PRINTERS,



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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the year ending December 31st, 1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District for the year 1949, the second I have presented since commencing my duties as Medical Officer of Health in April, 1949. The vital statistics for the year show some fluctuation notably a fall in the birth rate and increases in the still birth rate and infant mortality rate, compared with those recorded in the year 1948. The incidence of infectious diseases as a whole was much higher than in the previous year, being in the main due to an increase in incidence of measles. There was also a regrettable increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis, and the help of the Housing Committee in providing separate bedrooms for open cases of tuberculosis would play an important part in the control of this disease.

Epidemiologically the year was notable for an unprecedented outbreak of acute anterior poliomyelitis, twenty-five cases in all being recorded with two deaths. The virus appeared particularly infectious and contrary to the usual findings during recent years the attack rate appeared higher in the under five age group, i.e. a reversal to the more primitive type of the disease. The uncertainty which clouds the epidemiology of this disease coupled with the knowledge that numerous unknown carriers exist in an epidemic area have proved preventive measures of dubious value, but it is evident that laxity in personal hygiene plays a leading role in the spread of this disease, and the importance of complete bed rest in the early stages as a preventive of severe paralysis cannot be over emphasised.

I will now proceed to make my report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. W. KNIGHT,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1. Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	22,411 acres.
Population	...	...	...	35,650
Comparability Factor	...	...	...	.88
Average number of persons per acre	...	...	...	1.59
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	11,319 (excludes hotels & inhabited shops).
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	...	...	...	.50
Rateable value	...	...	...	£134,086
Product of a penny rate	...	...	...	£529

2. Industrial Position of the District.

The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Acts in Camborne-Redruth Area at 31st December, 1949, was :—

	Males	Females	Total
Over the age of 18 years	8,375	2,902	11,277
Under the age of 18 years	590	535	1,125
<i>Totals</i>	8,965	3,437	12,402

The number of unemployed insured persons at 31st December, 1949, was :—

	Males	Females	Total
Over the age of 18 years	468	43	511
Under the age of 18 years	13	11	24
<i>Totals</i>	481	54	535

New Industries opened during the year include :—

- (i) J.J.R. & Co.,  
New Portreath Road,  
Nr. Redruth.

}

Novelty Manufacturers.
- (ii) Mace, Rainbow & Stone Ltd.,  
New Portreath Road,  
Nr. Redruth.

}

Costume & Mantle  
Manufacturers.



## Outlook.

Men.—None of the main industries revealed signs of redundancy in the employment of workers. The Building & Civil Engineering Industry is likely to be very active in the area and it is anticipated that able-bodied men will continue to be absorbed on housing schemes, etc. The problem of providing labour for work available in view of age groups and disabilities remains the same.

Women.—Labour demands for women normally exceed the supply, and this applies particularly to firms engaged in the manufacture of light textiles and also to the laundry industry.

Juveniles.—No difficulties are experienced in obtaining employment for juveniles.

## 3. Vital Statistics.

	Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	274	264	538
Illegitimate	...	15	18	33
		—	—	—
<i>Totals</i>	...	289	282	571
		—	—	—

## 4. Birth Rate.

Live Birth Rate = 16.01 per 1,000 estimated civilian population.

Year	...	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Live Birth Rate	...	16.01	17.21	20.58	18.52	15.58

Although the birth rate has fallen this year from the figure 17.21 in 1948 and 20.58 in 1947, it compares favourably with that of the rest of England and Wales as a whole.

### Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population

Camborne — Redruth	England & Wales	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident popula- tion 25,000 — 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administra- tive County
16.01	16.7	18.7	18.0	18.5

The excess of the number of births in this area over the number of deaths is 51.

Total number of Live Births in 1949 ... 571

Total number of Deaths in 1949 ... 520

## 5. Still Births.

			1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
		Males	Females	Total	Total	Total	Total
Legitimate	...	9	13	22	17	22	26
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	1	—	4
		—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Total Still Births</i>		9	13	22	18	22	30
		—	—	—	—	—	—



Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births) = 37.1

Year	...	...	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Still Birth Rate	...	...	37.1	28.61	29.8	36.3	55.1

Although the Still Birth rate has been declining gradually throughout the country (the rate in 1948 for England and Wales being 23 per 1,000 live and still births), there was a rise in the Still Birth Rate for the Camborne-Redruth Area during the year 1949 compared with the rates recorded in previous years, and the rate is higher than that for the country as a whole.

The measures most likely to affect a reduction in the Still Birth Rate are those effecting an improvement in the general health of the expectant mothers, coupled with adequate arrangements for careful ante-natal supervision.

## 6. Total Mortality.

During the year 520 Camborne-Redruth residents died compared with 514 in the year 1948. Heart disease, intracranial vascular lesions and cancer were the commonest causes. Of these deaths 261 occurred over the age of 70 years, the sex incidence being 160 females to 101 males (i.e. approximately 1.6 : 1). The death rate for this area is 14.5 per 1,000 of the population compared with 11.7 for England and Wales as a whole.

There was an increase in the number of deaths from heart disease during the year (184 cases) compared with that in the previous year (150 cases) the sex incidence being 87 males, 97 females, and there was a slight decrease in the number of deaths from cancer. (62 in 1948 compared with 79 in 1949).

## Deaths from all Causes.

	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	11	9	20
7. Other form of Tuberculosis .....	1	2	3
8. Syphilitic Diseases .....	—	2	2
9. Influenza .....	1	5	6
10. Measles .....	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio encephalitis	1	1	2
12. Acute infant encephalitis .....	—	1	1
13. Cancer of buc: Cav: and oesoph (male) uterus (female) .....	1	5	6
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum .....	7	8	15
15. Cancer of breast .....	—	4	4
16. Cancer of all other sites .....	17	20	37
17. Diabetes .....	1	4	5
18. Intracranial vascular lesions .....	26	43	69
19. Heart Diseases .....	87	97	184
20. Other diseases of circulatory system .....	6	7	13
21. Bronchitis .....	12	7	19
22. Pneumonia .....	11	8	19
23. Other respiratory diseases .....	12	2	14
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....	7	1	8
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years .....	1	—	1
26. Appendicitis .....	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases .....	2	5	7
28. Nephritis .....	11	7	18
29. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis .....	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes .....	—	1	1
31. Premature Births .....	2	—	2
32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries and other infantile diseases .....	9	5	14
33. Suicide .....	3	—	3
34. Road Traffic Accidents .....	3	1	4
35. Other Violent Causes .....	1	3	4
36. All other Causes .....	20	19	39
<i>Totals</i>	<u>253</u>	<u>267</u>	<u>520</u>

*Death Rate* : (i.e. deaths per 1,000 mean annual population) = 14.5

Year	...	1949	1948	1946	1945
Death Rate	...	14.5	14.4	15.38	14.21

## Comparative Birth and Death Rates, 1949.

	Camborne — Redruth	England & Wales	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Res- ident popu- lation 25,000 —50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administra- tive County
	(a) = Rates per 1,000 total population other- wise rates per 1,000 civilian population.				
<b>Births</b>					
Live Births	16.01	16.7 (a)	18.7	18.0	18.5
Still Births	0.62	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37
<b>Deaths</b>					
All causes	14.5	11.7 (a)	12.5	11.6	12.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.64	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomye- litis & Polio- encephalitis	0.05	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.50	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59

### 7. Infant Mortality.

#### Deaths of Infants under one year (All Causes).

			1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
	Males	Females	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
Legitimate ...	15	7	22	15	29	19	13
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	1	1	3	4
<i>Totals</i> ...	15	7	22	16	30	22	17

#### Death Rate of Infants under one year of age =

38.5 per 1,000 live births.

During the year 1949 twenty-two infants under the age of one year died, an increase of six compared with the number in the previous year.

This gives an infant death rate in the district of 38.52 per 1,000 live births compared with the rate of 32 per 1,000 live births for the rest of England and Wales, and although an increase on the previous record low rate for the district of 26.2 in the year 1948, it is less than that for the year 1947 (which was 41.9 per 1,000 live births). The following table gives the comparative infant death rates for the year 1949.

	Camborne — Redruth	England & Wales	126 County Boroughs (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Res- dent Pop. 25,000 — 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administra- tive County
Infant Mortality Rate	38.52	32	37	30	29

Of the twenty-two children under one year of age who died during the year, 14 were under the age of one month, giving a neo-natal death rate of 24.5 per 1,000 live births. This is an increase of 6.5 above the rate for the year 1948 when 11 children died under the age of one month giving a neo-natal death rate of 18.0 per 1,000 live births.

### Classified Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

#### SURVIVAL RATE

	Under 24 hours M : F	One day to 7 days M : F	One week to 1 month M : F	1 month to 3 months M : F	3 months to 1 year M : F	Totals
Prematurity	1 : —	1 : —	— : —	— : —	— : —	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1 : —	2 : 2	— : —	— : —	— : —	5
Atelectasis	— : 1	— : —	— : —	— : —	— : —	1
Diaphragmatic Hernia	— : 1	— : —	— : —	— : —	— : —	1
Intestinal obstruc- tion (Volvulus)	— : —	— : 1	— : —	— : —	— : —	1
Bronchopneumonia	— : —	— : —	2 : 1	1 : —	1 : 1	6
Bronchopneumonia Atelectasis and congenital heart disease	— : —	— : —	1 : —	— : —	— : —	1
Hirschsprung's disease and Broncho- pneumonia	— : —	— : —	— : —	1 : —	— : —	1
Congenital haemangioma of larynx and Broncho- pneumonia	— : —	— : —	— : —	1 : —	— : —	1
Infantile diarrhoea and vomiting	— : —	— : —	— : —	— : —	1 : —	1
Spina Bifida	— : —	— : —	1 : —	— : —	— : —	1
Congenital Heart Disease	— : —	— : —	— : —	1 : —	— : —	1



## Prematurity.

During the year a total of 35 infants were born weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less at birth, i.e. infants classified as premature. Of these 23 were born at Redruth Hospital with two deaths, one (a male infant) surviving two hours and the other (a male infant) survived one day. The remainder were either born at home (6) or in Nursing Homes (6).

Total number of deaths due to prematurity ...	2
Total number of births ( $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less) ...	35
Neo-natal death rate per 1,000 live births ...	57

### The incidence of premature births.

Total Births ... ..	593
Premature Births ... ..	35
Incidence of prematurity ...	5.9%

### Proportion of Living Premature Infants.

Live Births ... ..	571
Premature Live Births ...	33
Proportion of Living Premature Infants ... ..	5.78%

Premature birth has in recent years attracted a great deal of attention as the largest factor in the neo-natal death rate, and from recent reports it would appear that some 80% of all premature infants weigh over 4lbs. and should be capable of being satisfactorily nursed at home providing a domiciliary service is available. It is the practice in this area for midwives to notify the birth of infants weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less and their supervision in the home is undertaken by the Assistant County Nursing Officer.

### Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.

There was one death, a male child aged six months, from this cause, giving a death rate of 1.75 per 1,000 live births, compared with 3.0 for England and Wales.

## 8. Maternal Mortality.

One maternal death was recorded during the year, giving a rate of 1.68 compared with the 1948 maternal mortality rate of 0.00 per 1,000 live and still births. The cause of the maternal death was classified as intra-ventricular haemorrhage coupled with toxæmia of pregnancy.

## 9. Cancer.

Deaths from cancer show a slight reduction from those recorded in the previous year (62 in 1949 compared with 79 in 1948), the death rate being 1.7 per 1,000 civilian population. Of these deaths 25 were males and 37 were females, the excess in females being due to malignant disease of the breast and generative organs.

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

#### 1. Maternity and Child Welfare.

No alterations or innovations were introduced during the year, and there are no ante-natal clinics in this area, other than at the Camborne-Redruth Miners' & General Hospital. Ten District Nurse/Midwives were employed by the Cornwall County Council for the Camborne-Redruth Area and in addition to their duties as District Nurses, they attended 262 domiciliary confinements, and carried out 3,988 midwifery and maternity visits, and 2,087 ante-natal visits to patients' homes during the year.

In addition to the ten District Nurse/Midwives, five Health Visitors were employed in this area, and the following table gives some indication of the amount of work carried out by the total nursing personnel.

#### Summary of Visits during 1949

Domiciliary Confinements	...	...	262
School Medical Inspections	...	...	39
School Cleanliness Inspections	...	...	547
Infant Welfare Centres	...	...	378
Minor Ailment Clinics	...	...	265
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics	...	...	18
General Nursing Visits	...	...	18,894
Midwifery and Maternity Visits	...	...	3,988
Ante-Natal Visits	...	...	2,807
Casual Visits	...	...	2,046
School Follow-up Visits	...	...	355
Health Visits	...	...	13,446
Tuberculosis Visits	...	...	1,644
Tuberculosis Clinics	...	...	72
Venereal Disease Clinics	...	...	25
Venereal Disease Visits	...	...	42

#### 2. Infant Welfare Clinics.

There are four Infant Welfare Clinics in Camborne-Redruth Area, and apart from a period during the poliomyelitis outbreak when all Infant Welfare Clinics were closed, weekly sessions were held throughout the year. The work of the respective Clinics is set out in the following table :—



	Camborne	Redruth	Pool	St. Day
No. of sessions held	36	37	34	36
Individual children attending	182	188	59	63
Children under 1 year attending for the first time	92	72	45	26
Children over 1 year attending for the first time	75	19	22	19
Attendances of children under 1 year	820	753	254	201
Attendances of children over 1 year	464	377	211	246
Total Attendances	1,284	1,130	465	447
Average attendances per session	36	31	13	12
Highest attendance at one session	62	60	22	22

### 3. Home Help Service.

This service continues to be administered locally through the offices of the Women's Voluntary Service at the Camborne Community Centre, and on the 1st January, 1949, a total of 7 Home Helps were employed (5 full time and 2 part time). The total complement of Home Helps varied from month to month, some leaving the service for employment elsewhere, and others often married with families of their own having to give up employment for domestic reasons. By the end of the year even with these fluctuations a total of 4 full time and 2 part time Home Helps were available, and the average number of Home Helps employed over the year was 5 full time and 2 part time. The importance of this service cannot be over emphasised and the following table gives some indication of the types of cases aided and the total number of hours Home Helps were employed on each type.

Number of Maternity Cases who received aid ...	47
Number of hours Home Helps were employed ...	3,482½ hrs.
Number of Old Age cases who received aid ...	86
Number of hours Home Helps were employed ...	3,626½ hrs.
Other cases ... ..	70
Number of hours Home Helps were employed ...	4,500¼ hrs.

### 4. Ambulance Service.

This service administered by the Cornwall County Council on an Area basis covering the Camborne-Redruth, Helston & Kerrier districts is operated from the Tolvean Depot in Redruth, and provides for a 24 hour service for maternity and T.B. patients. For all other cases a 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. service exists, the intervening period 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. and week-ends (Saturday 1 p.m. to Monday

7 a.m.) being covered by the local St. John Ambulance Division who are reimbursed by the County Council at an agreed rate. Sitting case transport is undertaken by the Utilecon type of Ambulances stationed at the Depot and by the Hospital Car Service. The demands on the Ambulance Service were heavy, increasing steadily throughout the year without any sign of reaching a peak level, so much so that the strain on both vehicles and personnel became too great and an increase in the complement of ambulances and drivers at the Depot became essential. The following table gives some indication of the steady rise in the demands on the Ambulance and Utilecon Service from April, 1949, until the end of the year.

MONTH	AMBULANCES		UTILECONS	
	Miles	Patients	Miles	Patients
April ... ..	5,369	439	2,209	132
May ... ..	5,686	658	2,961	226
June ... ..	4,724	536	3,691	303
July ... ..	4,883	574	3,389	315
August ... ..	5,580	712	4,708	383
September ... ..	7,331	849	3,552	426
October ... ..	7,924	812	3,305	346
November ... ..	7,470	871	2,188	391
December ... ..	6,290	848	4,318	560
TOTALS ...	55,257	6,299	30,321	3,082

### 5. Hospital Facilities.

Although this Authority can boast three Hospitals within its confines (Camborne-Redruth Miners' & General Hospital, Barncoose Geriatric Unit and Tehidy Sanatorium), the demand for these services is greater than that which can be adequately met. The shortage of hospital beds is of course not a local problem and Regional Hospital Boards throughout the country as a whole are faced with similar difficulties. The Camborne-Redruth Hospital originally intended as a local Cottage Hospital is now catering for a much wider area, and for a much larger population, a task for which it was never architecturally intended. The Maternity Unit especially is working under pressure and it is to be hoped that it will not be very long before it ceases to be the only Maternity Unit in Cornwall, for the extension of this Unit coupled with the erection of other Maternity Units throughout the County can only result in benefit to patient and medical staff alike. Similarly the problem of dealing with the tuberculosis sick is accentuated by the insufficient number of beds available at Tehidy Sanatorium, and the importance of preventive measures (e.g. control of infectious cases, rehousing tubercular families, etc.) in an attempt to limit the spread of infection to others cannot be exaggerated.

The Barncoose Geriatric Unit continues to cater for the chronic sick and the aged, but again demand exceeds the supply. The problem of dealing with the aged and infirm is notoriously complex but a great deal of preventive work can yet be done in the field.

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospitalisation are referred to the Isolation Hospital at Truro, and a Public Health Laboratory Service was introduced and centred at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, during the year.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1. Infectious Diseases Notified.

	1949	1948	1947
Dysentery .....	7	—	—
Measles .....	497	84	467
Scarlet Fever .....	22	25	16
Whooping Cough .....	21	122	63
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	59	12	64
Ophthalmia neonatorum ....	1	2	2
Poliomyelitis .....	25	2	1
Erysipelas .....	6	11	14
Pneumonia .....	19	21	30
Influenzal Meningitis .....	—	1	—
Tuberculosis .....	57	40	28
	—	—	—
Total .....	714	320	690
	—	—	—

2. Age and Sex Incidence.

DISEASE	0—1		1—3		3—5		5—10		10—15		15—25		25 yrs. & over	
	yr.		yrs.		yrs.		yrs.		yrs.		yrs.			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	2	3	4	3	2	4	—	1	1	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	4	4	4	1	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	7	7	46	43	55	53	122	131	8	9	7	2	2	5
Poliomyelitis ...	2	1	4	3	2	2	4	4	—	—	—	—	1	2
Dysentery ...	—	—	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

### 3. Comparative Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases (Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns).

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

Notifications (Corrected)	Camborne — Redruth	England & Wales	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns (including London) 16·8	148 Smaller Towns (Res- ident Pop. 25,000 — 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administra- tive County
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebrospinal Fever	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Scarlet Fever	0.62	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46
Whooping Cough	0.58	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70
Diphtheria	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07
Erysipelas	0.17	0.19	9.20	0.19	0.17
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	13.94	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54
Pneumonia	0.53	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55
Acute Poliomyelitis		0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18
Acute Polioenceph- alitis	0.73	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.00	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19

### 4. General.

From the preceding tables you will have seen that the notifiable disease most prevalent in the area during 1949 was measles, the incidence closely approximating to that of the year 1947. In addition, Camborne-Redruth was the first area in the County and in fact, one of the first areas in the Country as a whole to suffer an outbreak of acute poliomyelitis. Although the number of cases of puerperal pyrexia, the majority being notified from Redruth Hospital has increased, the general incidence of scarlet fever and whooping cough is below that for the rest of the country, and no cases of enteric fever, food poisoning, smallpox, diphtheria or cerebro spinal fever were notified during the year.

### 5. Measles.

The year 1949 saw a substantial increase in the number of notifications of measles compared with those notified during the year 1948. The biennial cyclic nature of the disease is evident, and the typical picture of a peak of high incidence in the February-March month is evident, but, despite this high incidence no deaths were attributed to this disease. It has been shown that during measles epidemics the incidence of the disease in school children may rise sharply at the onset of the epidemic, whereas in infants and youths the incidence is often greater towards the end of the epidemic, indicating the danger to infants of introduction of infection into the



home, by older children of school age. As the death rate is highest in the 0—3 age group it is essential that parents be warned of the dangers of exposing young children to those showing catarrhal symptoms and fever when measles is prevalent. Measles being one of the most easily transmitted of infectious diseases, such cases should be regarded as suspect, and isolation in the home should be introduced at once. In this country it is usual to quarantine for 14 days all children under the age of 7 years who are family contacts, providing they have not had the disease previously.

### Measles (Age distribution of Cases).

Month	0—1 yr.	1—3 yrs.	3—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	over 10 yrs.
January ....	1	11	18	27	5
February ...	4	28	34	163	16
March .....	4	27	28	23	10
April .....	1	1	5	7	—
May .....	4	9	8	5	1
June .....	—	—	—	6	—
July .....	—	9	8	19	1
August .....	—	4	7	3	—
September ..	—	—	—	—	—
October .....	—	—	—	—	—
November ..	—	—	—	—	—
December ..	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	14	89	108	253	33

## 6. Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of scarlet fever during the past three years has shown no great fluctuation, 22 cases being notified during the year 1949 compared with 25 in 1948 and 16 in 1947. All the cases were of a mild nature and there were no deaths. The remarkable reduction in the case fatality rate is probably due to a natural trend which has lowered the virulence of this disease although the advent of sulphonamides and penicillin has no doubt proved an additional factor.

## 7. Whooping Cough.

21 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year and there were no deaths. This is a decrease in the number of notifications compared with those of the preceding two years, and the case rate is much less than that of the country as a whole. However, whooping cough still ranks high among the notifiable infectious diseases as a cause of infant deaths, the mortality being confined in the main to the 0—5 age group. Furthermore, from half to two thirds of these deaths occur during the first year of life, the deaths in the main being due to bronchopneumonia. The trials of British



and American whooping cough vaccines continue, but so far a vaccine of a standard potency guaranteeing a high degree of protection is not as yet available for general distribution. Consequently early diagnosis is doubly important as it not only allows for early isolation but enables the doctor to begin treatment at the earliest opportunity.

**8. Diphtheria.**

Although no cases of diphtheria were notified during the year 1949, a repetition of the preceding year, this should not be regarded as an excuse for apathy in the response to any immunisation programme.

Immunisation affords a safe and reliable protection against diphtheria and all parents should ensure that their children are safe-guarded against this disease. The intensification of efforts to give artificial immunisation to the child population as a whole, emphasising the importance of protecting children in this way from infancy upwards is the sole means of ridding the community of this dread disease. In the annual report for the year ending December, 1948, it was shown that immunisation record cards were held for 1,595 children in this area out of an estimated population of 7,439, giving a remarkable low estimate of roughly 21% of the total child population protected against diphtheria. Although it was apparent that the records were incomplete the immunisation campaign was intensified during the year 1949, and as the following tables show 2,416 children received injections during the year, of which 1,607 were secondary or boosting doses and 809 were primary courses.

The Registrar General's estimate of the child population in the area for the year 1949 was 7,527 of which 2,842 constituted the 0—5 age group and 4,685 the 5—14 age group.

Using only the record cards at our disposal and the Registrar General's estimate of the child population, the percentage of the total child population immunised against diphtheria rose from 21 in the year 1948 to 51 in the year 1949.

No. of children who completed a primary course during the year 1949		No. of children who received a secondary or boosting dose during the year 1949
Under 5 years 430	5—14 years 379	1,607

The number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1949, is as follows :-

Under 5 years	...	1,234	children
5—14 years	...	2,614	„
Total		3,848	„

Although this is a substantial improvement on the previous year, it was felt that a true picture of the immunisation state in the area had not been painted, and an attempt was made to survey the schools in the area. By 31st December, 1949, 18 schools out of a total of 23 had been visited, each child receiving a form to be completed by their parents asking for information relating to previous immunisations in addition to the usual request for permission to give further injections if necessary. Following an analysis of these forms, it was shown that by 31st December, 1949, 2,454 children had completed a course of immunisation out of a child population of 3,824 in these 18 schools, giving an estimate of 64% of the children in these schools protected against diphtheria.

A similar survey of the children in the 0—5 age group was attempted, and as each Health Visitor receives a record for and visits all children born in the area including those children transferred from other Welfare Authorities, it was felt that a fairly reliable estimate of the 0—5 child population immunised could be assessed from an analysis of these records.

The following table gives the result of this survey :—

Age Group	No. of record cards held by the Health Visitors	No. of children stated by the Health Visitors to have been immunised	%
0—15 months	619	92	15
15 months—5 years	1,922	1,416	74
TOTALS ...	2,541	1,508	

In addition to the anticipated discrepancy between the number of children stated by the Health Visitors to have been immunised and those actually recorded, there is a variation in Registrar-General's estimate of the child population and that recorded from the Births Register, after correction for inward and outward transfers. The completion of the proposed new census should clarify this position.

## 9. Chickenpox

75 cases of chickenpox were notified from schools in the area during the year 1949. There were no deaths attributable to this disease.

## 10. Tuberculosis.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis during the year 1949 was 23, a slight reduction from the 28 deaths recorded in 1947, the death rate being .64 per 1,000 estimated population. (The death rate for England and Wales 1949 was 0.45 per 1,000 population). In addition 57 new cases were notified, 38 being males and 19 females, and the total number of persons remaining on the tuberculosis register for this area on 31st December, 1949, was 196.

## Age Distribution of New Cases & Mortality during 1949.

Ages	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M : F	Total	M : F	Total	M : F	Total	M : F	Total
0—1	— : —	—	— : —	—	— : —	—	— : —	—
1—5	— : —	—	1 : —	1	— : —	—	— : —	—
5—15	3 : 2	5	5 : 2	7	— : 2	2	— : —	—
15—45	20 : 12	32	2 : 1	3	5 : 4	9	— : 2	2
45—65	5 : 2	7	2 : —	2	4 : 3	7	1 : —	1
65 & over	— : —	—	— : —	—	2 : —	2	— : —	—
Totals	28 : 16	44	10 : 3	13	11 : 9	20	1 : 2	3

### Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1949.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Males .....	95	23	118
Females .....	65	13	78
	<hr/> 160	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 186

Of the many factors which predispose individuals to this disease, one of the most important is overcrowding. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease and it is obvious that prolonged and uncontrolled personal contact with an infectious case must automatically increase the risk of infection to others, and it has been shown conclusively that the removal of families from an overcrowded environment does in fact reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in that community. There is little doubt that if we wish to see any material reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis, we must be prepared to give a sense of urgency to the problem of rehousing these families. Patients requiring inpatient treatment are referred to the Sanatorium at Tehidy, and there is a Chest Clinic at Tuckingmill holding weekly session for consultations.

## 11. Small-pox.

Although a number of persons arrived in this area from abroad during the year 1949 and who were contacts of Small-pox, all were kept under surveillance and none developed the disease.

### Number of persons vaccinated during the year 1949

	Primary	Re-Vaccination
Under 5 years of age ...	109	3
Over 5 years of age .....	89	112
<i>Totals</i> .....	<hr/> 198	<hr/> 115

## 12. Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis & Acute Polioencephalitis.

The year showed an unprecedented outbreak of acute poliomyelitis in the area, 24 cases of acute poliomyelitis and one case of polioencephalitis being notified. The first case was notified on the 19th June, 1949, and the last case on the 23rd August, 1949.

In marked contrast to the findings in the country during the past few years the majority of cases occurred in the under 5 age group. Thirteen of the cases were under 5 years of age, nine were in the five to ten age group and the remaining three cases were over 25 years of age. The sex ratio of those affected was 16 males, 9 females. There were two deaths, one a female child aged  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years and the other, an adult male aged 37 years. There were three families in which more than one case occurred, in two instances double cases being notified and in the third family four children were affected, two of the cases being abortive.

Age and Sex Incidence

Type	0—1 yr.		1—3 yrs.		3—5 yrs.		5—10 yrs.		10—15 yrs.		15—25 yrs.		25 yrs & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Poliomyelitis	2	1	4	2	2	1	7	2	—	—	—	—	1	2
Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	1	4	2	2	2	7	2	—	—	—	—	1	2

The first indication of any outbreak of poliomyelitis in the County originated in the Illogan Area, the virus appearing to be abnormally infectious. Eight clinical cases were notified from Illogan, the outbreak being confined to this area for some three weeks before a peripheral spread to Redruth (7 cases), Camborne (8 cases) and St. Day (2 cases) developed.

Although two or three initial cases were pupils at Illogan Infants' School, thorough investigation of the food supply and hygiene of the school together with the movement of staff and pupils failed to disclose any possible origin of the outbreak. The possibility of importation of the virus from outside the area was considered, but apart from the fact that the outbreak in Illogan was not only the first in the County, but one of the first in the country as a whole, no visitors had stayed in any of the affected houses during the previous six weeks nor had any of the occupants been away on holiday.



In one instance a close friend of one of the early cases had visited Bristol prior to the outbreak, but enquiries made to the Public Health Authorities at Bristol showed that there had been no cases in the area where this person had stayed, nor had any of the family shown any signs of illness. In an attempt to illicit a source of the outbreak a total of twenty-six houses representing half of the eighty children attending the school were visited, and although enquiries threw no further light on the problem, at least six cases of abortive poliomyelitis were discovered and excluded from school. As pupils to the three sections of the school (Infants, Boys and Girls) were intimately connected and drawn almost exclusively from Illogan, it was not thought advisable to close the school. Contacts of cases (paralytic and abortive) were excluded from school for three weeks, but on visiting these houses one often found that the mother had taken the child by 'bus to Redruth, or Camborne to do the shopping or to the pictures. In view of the fact that a high proportion of abortive cases occur during an outbreak and usually remain undiscovered, and that the overwhelming majority of persons having contact with a case of poliomyelitis carry the virus in their throats and excreta without showing any signs or symptoms, all methods of control of this disease have proved disappointing. The general measures adopted in this area in an attempt to minimise the outbreak were those routinely carried out in the rest of the country and included the following :—

The Press was used to educate the local population in preventative measures, stress being laid on personal hygiene and the protection of food from flies. The use of disinfectants in bucket latrines were advocated although the Ministry of Education will not sanction issues of disinfectant for bucket latrines in schools. Inhabitants were advised to scald all children's milk and to boil water other than from the main supply. In order to minimise the spread of infection from an infected area to other parts of the County unnecessary travel from the affected area was discouraged and whenever possible char-a-banc trips were cancelled. Attendance at unnecessary gatherings of large groups of people, e.g. fêtes, fairs, etc., was discouraged.

All adult contacts employed in the handling of foodstuffs or in the care of young children were excluded from their work for three weeks and similarly all child contacts were excluded from school for this period.

As excessive exercise in the pre-paralytic phase can be shown to play an important part in determining the severity of paralysis, parents were advised to put all children to bed at the onset of any unexplained temperature or of any other suspicious signs of infection in the epidemic area, and in addition all operations on tonsils and adenoids and dental extractions were suspended during the period of the outbreak.

### **13. Dysentery.**

During the year 7 cases of Bacilliary Dysentery were notified all being patients at Redruth Hospital. The dysentery was of the Sonne type and mild in nature. There were no deaths attributable to this disease. The first case a woman aged 32 years was originally admitted to Redruth Hospital and on diagnosis was transferred to the Isolation Hospital at Truro. Two days after this original case further notifications of Sonne Dysentery from Redruth Hospital were received, the last case being notified on the 7th June, 1950. All patients apart from the original case were children under the age of 10 years, and all recovered uneventfully.



# Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1949.

*Public Health Department,*

*Veor,*

*Camborne.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

I have again to report that no work has been carried out in connection with the Shops Act, and insufficient inspections have been made of the various factories in the area.

I am indebted to the following gentlemen for information and data which is included in my report : Mr. P. G. M. Collins, B.Sc., Water Engineer, Camborne Water Company ; Mr. N. Barrett, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.I.W.E., Engineer and Surveyor ; Mr. T. F. King, M.I.Mun.E., Water Engineer ; Mr. M. H. Freeman, Housing Officer.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

C. F. BAXTER,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

## SECTION D

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. Water.

##### Redruth Area

The more populous sections of this area are supplied with water by the Council's Water Department, the remainder is supplied by Chutes and Wells.

1. The quality of the main's supply was found to be satisfactory throughout the year, but the quantity was inclined to be short during the very dry summer. The chutes and wells were indifferent as to quantity and quality during the year.

2. All raw water to mains supplies was tested four times and found to be satisfactory. The results of all samples taken throughout the year were as follows :—

##### Main Water Supply Sources.

Penventon	Jan. Class 1.	Mar. Class 1.	June Class 1.	Sept. Class 1.	Dec. Class 1.
Penstruthal	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.
Filtrick	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.
Distribu-					
tion Mains	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.	— — —	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.
Cathedral	— — —	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.	„ „ 1.	— — —
Sandy Lane	July „ 1	— — —	— — —	„ „ 1.	— — —

##### Wells and Chutes.

Little Reskadinnick	...	Jan. Class 1.	July Class IV.
Roseworthy	...	„ „ 1.	„ „ II.
Penponds	...	„ „ 1.	„ „ II.
Menadarva	...	„ „ III.	„ „ II.
Oak Well	...	„ „ III.	„ „ IV.
Croft Michael	...	„ „ III.	„ „ II.
Troon Adit	...	Feb. „ III.	„ „ II.
Knave-go-by	...	„ „ IV.	„ „ II.
Stennack	...	„ „ II.	„ „ IV.
Treskillard Tap	...	„ „ I.	Aug. „ I.
Bosleake Well	...	„ „ I.	„ „ IV.
Redruth Coombe	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.
Carnkie Tap	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.
Betty Adit	...	Mar. „ I.	„ „ IV.
Chycarne Moor	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.
Bolenowe Moor	...	„ „ I.	„ „ IV.
Bolenowe	...	„ „ II.	„ „ I.
Gordon	...	Mar. „ I.	„ „ I.

Penhalurick	...	...	April	..	I.	..	..	IV.
Manor Widden	...	...	..	..	III.	..	..	IV.
Carharrack Pump	...	..	..	..	I.	..	..	IV.
Trevethan Windlass	...	..	..	..	I.			
Vogue Chute	...	...	..	..	I.			
Five Chutes	...	...	..	..	I.			
Pink Moors	...	...	..	..	I.			
Nancekuke	...	...	May	..	I.	Dec.	..	III.
Mawla Well	...	...	..	..	IV.	..	..	III.
Cambrose Well	...	...	..	..	IV.	..	..	II.
Watergate Chute	...	..	..	..	I.	..	..	II.
Carnmarth Chute	...	..	..	..	I.			
Pennance Well	...	...	..	..	III.	..	..	I
Capt. Eddy's Chute	...	..	..	..	I.	..	..	III.
Trevarth Chute	...	...	..	..	I.	..	..	II.
Tolskithy	...	...	July	..	IV.			
Roscroggan Pump	...	..	..	..	II.			
Parsonage Well	...	..	..	..	IV.			
Primitive Chapel, Lanner			Aug.	..	IV.			
Lanner Stand Tap	...	..	..	..	I.			
Carnmarth Pump	...	..	..	..	IV.	Dec.	..	I.

3. The water has definite plumbo solvent action. As a precautionary measure no lead services are permitted anywhere in the area, and all new mains are concrete lined.

4. Notices advising boiling are placed at Chutes and Wells as soon as unsatisfactory samples are obtained.

5. Approximately 3,650 dwellings, housing 12,750 persons, are supplied direct from the mains, and there are also 8 stand-pipes which serve approximately 80 houses and some 280 persons.

### Camborne and Illogan Area.

The year 1949 was one of the driest on record. The rainfall recorded at Boswyn was 37.93 ins. which is 13.32 ins. less than in 1948, and almost 10 ins. less than the average for the past 30 years. The greatest rainfall on any one day was 1.47 ins. on 13th September, and there were 203 rain days during the year.

The total amount of water consumed during the year was 230 million gallons of which 105 million were pumped from Penponds.

The average daily consumption was 630,000 gallons and this represents an approximate average daily consumption of 29 gallons per head.

The Company extended its mains at Pengegon to supply the Council's Housing Scheme. 30 new connections (other than those to Council property) were made to the mains.

During the latter part of the year a scheme was drawn up by the Company to provide the village of Troon with a piped water supply. This scheme provides for the erection of a 75,000 gallon tank on Greenlane Hill and the installation of duplicate pumps in the Beacon Pumping Station. This tank will also supply Beacon and Condurrow (the existing tank at Carn Camborne will be used only in an emergency) and should stop any further complaints of lack of pressure in these areas. The pipes for this scheme are at present on site and the tank and pumps have been placed on order. Pipe-laying should commence in March, 1950, and it is estimated that the supply should be available for Troon before the end of 1950.

1. Despite the drought the water supply was satisfactory both in quality and quantity. At no time during the year was the continuity of the supply threatened and it was not necessary to make any special appeal for economy or to impose restrictions.

2. Two samples were taken of raw water, one in February and the other in July, and in each case the water was considered to be of satisfactory bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes without further treatment.

Fifteen samples were taken for the bacteriological examination of mains water and in every case the samples were reported on as being satisfactory.

Five samples were taken for chemical analysis and the following is a table of results obtained :—

Date of sample	7/1/49	22/2/49	15/3/49	17/6/49	16/9/49
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	24.	28.	34.	34.	30.
Total Hardness ...	30.	30.	150.	140.	140.
Nitrogen in Nitrates ...	3.6	0.00	2.8	2.2	2.2
Nitrogen in Nitrites ...	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia ...	0.012	0.015	0.000	0.000	0.018
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.008	0.032	0.000	0.000	0.012
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 37°C. ...	0.20	0.22	0.000	0.000	0.000

The results given above are in parts per million.

In connection with the September samples it was stated "This sample has opalescence and deposit causing appreciable turbidity which is due to the presence of an objectionable amount of iron." It is considered that this was a direct result of lack of mains flushing throughout the summer months due to the drought.

3. Alkalization Plant was installed at all three of the Company's sources during 1948 to correct the corrosive tendencies of the raw water. Two of these plants were put into operation during 1948 but the other was not put into operation until 15th January, 1949. Accordingly one sample of water taken before this date was proved on analysis to be plumbo-solvent. Lead pipes are not used in the Company's area for conveying drinking water — but in any case all further samples showed the water to be neutral in reaction.

4. No serious form of contamination was found to exist during the 12 months under review.

5. There are approximately 5,900 houses within the area which is supplied with water by the Camborne Water Company. It is estimated that 20,650 persons reside in these houses and all the houses are connected direct to the mains. In addition to the above, six houses are served by one standpipe. The population in this case is 22.

## 2. Complaints.

The following complaints were received and dealt with during the year :—

Choked sewers and drains	...	...	...	643
Unsatisfactory housing conditions	...	...	...	111
Unsatisfactory sanitation and drainage	...	...	...	41
Overcrowding	...	...	...	74
Verminous premises	...	...	...	2
Water supply	...	...	...	7
Non-removal of house refuse	...	...	...	11
Rats and mice	...	...	...	142
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	54
		...		<hr/> 1,085 <hr/>



### 3. Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following works were carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors during the period under review :—

Premises connected to the sewer ...	...	...	50
New lengths of drain laid ...	...	...	202
Choked drains cleared ...	...	...	643
New water closets installed ...	...	...	50
Water closets repaired or renewed ...	...	...	25
Pail or pit closets abolished ...	...	...	9
Pail or pit closets repaired or renewed ...	...	...	2
New cesspools provided ...	...	...	6
Defective roofs repaired ...	...	...	38
Eavesgutters and down pipes repaired or renewed...			22
Dampness remedied ...	...	...	50
Walls and ceilings repaired ...	...	...	84
Floors repaired ...	...	...	27
Window frames and sash cords repaired or renewed...			87
Doors repaired or renewed ...	...	...	13
Water supply improved ...	...	...	18
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed ...	...	...	15
Fireplaces, Chimneys and Flues repaired ...	...	...	14
External walls repaired ...	...	...	12
Other nuisances abated ...	...	...	6
Notices complied with during the year ...	...	...	78

### 4. Verminous Premises.

Alleged verminous premises, 2 in number, were investigated, both concerning fleas. Disinfestation was carried out by the department, spraying with an insectide being effective in both cases.

### 5. Disinfection of Houses.

71 visits were made following notification of infectious diseases. 29 premises were disinfected as a result of such visits, and 34 library books were removed from these premises, disinfected, and returned to the libraries concerned.

### 6. Salvage.

By the end of June our waste paper dealers informed us that they were unable to accept unlimited quantities of waste paper as had previously been the case. During the early part of July we were unable to send any paper away whatsoever, and we were eventually allowed to send less than 6 tons for the whole month. This made storage of the salvage very difficult. 18 tons of paper



were despatched during August, and after that we were informed that the mills could no longer accept any further supplies of paper, and this position would continue indefinitely. Finally, a letter from the Board of Trade, dated 30th August, 1949, suggested that consideration be given to the abandonment of a separate waste paper collection. The collection of salvage as such finally ceased at the end of September. At that time quite large quantities of baled paper were held at the Salvage Depot, and by the end of the year we were still unable to dispose of the accumulation.

The following quantities of salvage were disposed of during the twelve months under review :—

			T.	C.	Q.
Cardboard and paper	...	...	144	17	2
Selected paper	...	...	10	7	3
Books and Newsprint	...	...	11	2	1
Metals	...	...	2	13	0
Textiles	...	...	3	5	0
Bottles — 314 dozen					
Bones	...	...	1	12	0
			173	17	2

£1,183 was received for the sale of the above salvage.

## 7. Kitchen Waste.

Kitchen waste continues to be collected and cooked by the Council under Government direction. Some 250 tons were disposed of during the year giving an income of £1,067. The income shows an increase of nearly £100 over the income for the previous twelve months.

## 8. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The normal arrangements for the collection of refuse continued as in previous years, Karrier Bantam refuse vehicles being operated throughout the area with the exception of a horse and cart which is used in the Four Lanes area one day per week.

As mentioned in last year's report, requests for the refuse service in some of the more remote sections of the area continue to be made. It was found quite impossible to add to present commitments by acceding to these requests.

As soon as the collection of salvage was abandoned in the Autumn, additional quantities of paper were found in household ash-bins, consequently fewer houses were dealt with per load, or more loads per week were carried. One noticed the tendency by the

men to overload the lorries in order to complete daily rounds. It was also found quite impossible to deal with the extra quantities of trade refuse which was a direct result of the non-collection of salvage. Arrangements were made for one of the lorries, previously used for the collection of salvage, to be manned for two days each week for removing the more bulky refuse from shops, such as cardboard and paper. A further burden which had to be dealt with throughout the year, was the addition of more and more new houses, both those built by the Council and those by private enterprise. It became obvious by the end of the year alterations and additions in men and lorries would have to be made if another winter was to be dealt with in any reasonable or adequate manner.

The following quantities of rubbish were disposed of during the year :—

Refuse	...	...	...	4,363 loads
Tip covering	...	...	...	1,678 ,,
Rubbish and Highway Sweepings				2,882 ,,

The 4,363 loads of refuse represent 30,541 cubic yards. The rubbish (other than house refuse) dealt with has increased by 1,608 loads as compared with 1948.

Disposal has been by means of controlled tipping at Treskillard. Builders and traders, etc., have been encouraged to take waste materials and rubbish to the Council's tip, and the figures given above show that many dispose of waste material in this manner. The dumping of builders' wastes, waste paper, etc., in back lanes and on waste ground still continues, however, and unsightly dumps of brick rubble, or waste paper blowing over the countryside, is still seen far too often for my liking.

## 9. Sewerage.

The pumping stations at Portreath and Penponds continued to operate satisfactorily during the year and the following quantities were pumped :—

Portreath	...	...	34,825,000 gallons
Penponds	...	...	11,204,000 gallons

The normal maintenance of sewers was carried out in the area without undue difficulty. Severe rainstorms were experienced, however, during the autumn and early winter, and this caused severe flooding in Centenary Street and Trevenson Street, Camborne, and lesser flooding in Trelowarren Street, Camborne. The leat at the rear of Mount Pleasant Road overflowed its banks and ran down Beacon Hill to the main railway line.

At the actual time of the flooding in Centenary Street, and Trevenson Street, the sewers in this area were examined, and all were found to be flowing at full bore. The Council have now decided to prepare a scheme for providing sewers of greater capacity in this particular area.

Certain sections of the leat under County and District Roads were opened up and as a result of certain repairs the speed of flow was increased materially. I do not consider we are liable to experience further trouble of this nature.

## 10. Rats and Mice.

### Sewer Infestations.

The normal 10% annual treatment of sewers was carried out as in previous years with the following results :—

Area			Manholes baited	Baits taken recorded
Camborne	...	...	29	Nil
Illogan and Portreath	...	...	230	82
Redruth	...	...	75	17

In 1948 there were no "bait takes" recorded in any area, this year, however, conditions appear to have changed considerably, particularly in the Illogan area. It is difficult to understand this sudden change, unless it was caused by the prolonged dry spell which was experienced throughout the summer.

### Surface Infestations.

Throughout the year the free treatment of all domestic premises was continued, and it would appear that this has had a direct bearing on the public notifying cases of infestation. 61 more complaints or notifications were received this year than in 1948.

In addition to the normal surveys, treatment work was carried out as follows :—

Premises treated	...	...	...	117
Points baited	...	...	...	1,353
Poison takes	...	...	...	666
Bodies recovered	...	...	...	250

The above deals with work in connection with infestations of rats. In addition to this, assistance has been requested concerning mice infestations as follows :—

Premises treated	...	...	...	35
Points baited	...	...	...	520
Poison takes	...	...	...	306
Bodies recovered	...	...	...	60

## 11. Factories Act, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	57	27	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	95	66	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	3	4	—	—
Total ...	155	97	1	—

2. *Cases in which defects were found* (if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	4	4	—	—	—
Over-crowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences—					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	5	4	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	11	10	—	—	—



## SECTION E

### HOUSING.

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	302
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,168
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	8
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	84

#### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... ..	78
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#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	4
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	1
(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	1

#### 4. Overcrowding.

The following details are of interest :—

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	111
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	179
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	890
(d) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
(e) Number of persons concerned in such cases	67
(f) Number of families provided with accommodation during the year	9

Judging by the 1948 and 1949 surveys which were made by the Housing Officer, it would appear that there is a hard-core of approximately 700 families waiting for Council house accommodation. The remaining 200 applicants apply once, and realising how remote their chance of obtaining a Council house is, do not trouble to follow up their original application.

Number of tenancy applications — January, 1949	900
Number of tenancy applications — December, 1949	893
Number of families housed during 1949	69
Number of Council tenants transferred during 1949	36

Analysis of waiting list at December, 1949 :—

Man, wife and four or more children	11.3%
„ „ „ three children	13.1%
„ „ „ two children	23.0%
„ „ „ one child	30.5%
„ and wife (no children)	12.1%
Applicants waiting to be married	4.3%
Single persons	1.0%
Old age pensioners	4.4%

#### 5. New Housing.

##### (a) General.

During 1949, good progress was made with the Housing Programme, and the following new houses were completed :—

Pengegon Estate, Camborne	14	Traditional Houses completed.
Paynters Lane End, Illogan	20	do.

## (b) Present Position.

The position of our post-war new housing at December 31st, 1949, was as under :—

### (a) Traditional Houses.

(1) North Close, Redruth .....	16	houses completed
(2) Tresavean, Lanner .....	24	„ „
(3) Treloweth Road, Pool .....	28	„ „
(4) Paynters Lane End, Illogan .....	38	„ „
(5) Pengegon Estate, Camborne .....	14	„ „

### (b) Permanent Non-traditional Houses.

Permanent Aluminium Houses,

Pengegon ..... 40 completed

### (c) Temporary Houses.

(1) Pengegon No. 1 Site .....	50	Arcons completed
(2) Pengegon No. 2 Site .....	28	Aluminium houses completed
(3) Strawberry Lane, Redruth .....	22	„ „

### (d) Conversion of Nissen Huts.

W.A.A.F. Site, Portreath ..... 14 completed

## (c) Future Programme.

### (1) Pengegon Estate, Camborne.

46 Traditional houses are in course of erection and should be completed in 1950.

68 Non-traditional houses (Cornish Unit) are in course of erection and should be completed in 1950.

### (2) Treleigh Estate, Redruth.

Plans have been prepared for the development of this Estate, and work should be commenced early in 1950.

### (3) General.

It is anticipated that the erection of a further 160 houses (Traditional and Non-traditional) will be commenced in 1950.

## SECTION F

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### 1. Milk.

30 Samples of pasteurised milk were taken from the Milk Marketing Board's Creamery at Treswithian, during the year. These samples were all subjected to the Phosphatase Test, and each test showed under 2.3 units. It would appear thus that satisfactory pasteurisation was maintained throughout the year.

Normal sampling of milk from local vendors was proceeded with, and 144 samples of milk were obtained. 59 samples throughout the year failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test, and 45 out of 108 failed to pass the Coliform examination.

Comparative percentages of samples satisfying tests were as follows :—

##### Methylene Blue Test.

Year	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
% passed	83.0	71.4	77.27	84.2	86.9	96.47	99.31	62.5

##### Coliform Test.

Year	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
% passed	51.3	44.3	53.8	65.0	57.0	62.7	68.75	58.33

Towards the end of the year the supervision of cowsheds was removed from local authorities. One can hardly judge the new system after only working for a month or so, but I shall no doubt be able to report fully on this item in my next report.

### MILK LICENCES.

#### 2. Milk Licences were issued as follows :—

Pasteurisation by short time process	...	...	...	1
Retailing pasteurised milk	...	...	...	5
Retailing T.T. milk	...	...	...	6
Bottling T.T. milk	...	...	...	1

### 3. Meat Inspection.

	Cattle exclu'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1499	1315	14829	2879	49684
Number inspected	1499	1470	14829	2879	2019
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	17	42	15	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	611	456	220	136	34
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	40.83	32.24	1.76	5.24	2.13
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned	42	260	10	Nil	79
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	303	578	1	Nil	261
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	23.01	57.0	0.07	—	16.84

Total weight of meat condemned during the year was :—

132 tons. 11 cwts. 0 qrs. 23 lbs.

The normal slaughter of animals for human consumption continued to be carried on at the four central slaughterhouses and the two bacon factories.

The total kill in the area during the year was approximately 70,000, which shows an increase of 25,000 over the previous year's figures.

In my opinion, the present killing facilities are inadequate for the number of animals which are being slaughtered annually in the area.



#### 4. Other Foods.

212 visits were made in connection with the inspection and condemnation of food other than butcher's meat.

The following food was condemned :—

Canned vegetables	...	...	...	11,737 lbs.
Canned fruits	...	...	...	2,421 „
Canned meats	...	...	...	1,734 „
Canned milk	...	...	...	701 „
Miscellaneous canned foods	...	...	...	1,792 „
Cereals, etc.	...	...	...	952 „
Dried fruit	...	...	...	389 „
Miscellaneous foods	...	...	...	3,067 „
				<hr/>
				22,793 lbs.
				<hr/>

Total weight of other foods condemned :—

10 tons. 3 cwts. 2 qrs. 1 lb.

## 5. Food and Drugs Samples.

The following information regarding samples of food taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, has been received from Mr. H. A. Rundle, Weights and Measures Dept., Cornwall County Council.

Article	No. of Samples taken	Result of Analysis		Remarks
		Genuine	Adulterated	
Milk	101	96	5	11% deficient in fat—Caution. 42%, 3%, 10%, 8% deficient in fat —Interviewed by County Milk Regulations Officer.
Butter	6	4	2	Contained 0.5% Excess Water — Caution. Contained 0.4% Excess Water — Caution.
Lemonade Powder	1	1	—	
Ice Cream	5	5	—	
Full Cream Milk Pudding	1	1	—	
Sausages	2	2	—	
Chocolate Cakes	1	1	—	
Beef and Pork Spread	1	1	—	
Custard Powder	1	1	—	
Beef Suet	2	—	2	0.6% deficient in fat—Caution. 1.7% deficient in fat—Caution.
Cocoa	1	1	—	
Grapefruit Squash	1	1	—	
Apple Juice	1	1	—	
Strawberry and Gooseberry Jam	1	1	—	
Crab Paste	1	1	—	
Steamed Pudding Mixture	1	1	—	
Strawberry Jam	1	1	—	
Saffron	1	1	—	
Honey Lumps	1	1	—	
Candy Coated Crunchy	1	1	—	
Total	131	122	9	

## 6. Food Premises.

372 visits were made to Food Premises during the year.

12 premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, 1 for the manufacture of sausages and 11 for the preparation and cooking of fish and potatoes.

Five fish and chip vans have operated in the area during the year. We are unable to insist on the registration of the mobile canteens, but the preparing rooms have been fully equipped and registered.

Nine preparing rooms have been adapted during the year and fitted with glazed sinks and water heaters.

The food premises register now contains records of premises as follows :—

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	72
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	28
Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	...	33
Restaurants, cooked meats, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	53
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	15
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	13
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	37
Mobile Vans	...	...	...	...	...	5
						<hr/> 256 <hr/>

## 7. Ice Cream.

Three premises were registered for the preparation of ice cream and 28 premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream.

Five applications for the registration of ice cream premises were turned down. The usual notices of right of appeal were served in all cases, and only one appeal was made. After careful consideration of the appeal was given by the Committee it was decided not to register the premises.

24 ice cream samples were taken during the year, and upon the results of Methylene Blue Tests, were graded as follows :—

Provisional	Grade I	...	...	...	6
„	„ II	...	...	...	7
„	„ III	...	...	...	5
„	„ IV	...	...	...	6

17 of these samples were from ice cream produced in the area.

18 samples were tested for fat content. The results varied between 2.2% and 11.5% with an average of 5.04%.

## **8. Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**

38 slaughtermen were licensed under the above Act during the year.





